



# BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 22.4 Thursday, January 28, 2016

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

F R E E



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

Richard Rytman, at right, was spokesman for many of the estimated 250 people at Monday's work/study session of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education. The meeting had to be moved from the administration building, where it was scheduled to be, to the BHS cafeteria because of the expected crowd.

## Hostile crowd jams school board meeting

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
 Independent Editor

More than 250 people made up an unruly audience Monday at the Belleville High School cafeteria as the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education met for a work/study session to discuss a possible new procedure for lockdowns, new reports for teachers, and results of a climate survey.

The meeting had to be moved from the administration building to the high school because of the expected crowd. And, people spilled out of the regular meeting area at the high school into the rest of the cafeteria in the largest crowd ever seen at a school board meeting in at least 20 years.

The people in the audience were very unhappy over the gun with bullets

discovered on a high school student that the principal and superintendent found was not a danger.

They were also very unhappy about the supposed cheating scandal at Savage Elementary that resulted in Supt. Michael Van Tassel removing five teachers. They supported the teachers and questioned Van Tassel's investigation that was instigated by him contacting the state. Then the state asked him to investigate and he did and found improprieties.

Richard Rytman was spokesperson for a large number of those present.

He said he has been asked to talk for those who are afraid to talk, which he said was very strange to him in a free country like the United States.

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## 8th Annual Report to Taxpayers

Van Buren Township Public Safety Department  
 Employees Wages & Actual Cost to Township 1/1/15 - 12/31/15

Employee Name	Police Wages	Fire Wages	Benefits	Total Compensation
Floro, Kenneth	\$99,031.39	\$54,786.61	\$41,927.20	\$195,745.20
McCormick, Ryan	\$78,197.80	\$45,074.95	\$35,852.35	\$159,125.10
Keele, Louis	\$89,813.16	\$25,292.75	\$37,936.54	\$153,042.45
Champagne, David	\$74,342.37	\$33,148.31	\$41,144.21	\$148,634.89
Buckberry, Mark Jr.	\$102,447.84	—	\$38,512.41	\$140,960.25
Bazzy, Charles	\$97,341.68	—	\$43,273.16	\$140,614.84
Abdilla, Mark	\$76,919.93	\$27,091.54	\$35,517.81	\$139,529.28
Schulz, Alexander	\$99,206.05	—	\$37,911.64	\$137,117.69
Laurain, Gregory	\$98,455.00	—	\$36,769.61	\$135,224.61
Papin, Michael	\$91,351.53	—	\$36,363.59	\$127,715.12
DeVos, Bart	\$99,773.94	—	\$27,252.72	\$127,026.66
Raschke, Matthew	\$88,197.33	—	\$35,710.08	\$123,907.41
Buxton, Mark	\$83,470.49	—	\$39,003.85	\$122,474.34
Besson, Daniel	—	\$80,000.00	\$40,653.40	\$120,653.40
Stanton, Jeffrey	\$80,562.60	—	\$39,918.06	\$120,480.66
Toney, Kenneth	\$83,299.35	—	\$34,747.41	\$118,046.76
Rini, Michael	\$89,135.25	—	\$25,129.45	\$114,264.70
Gueli, Jeffery	\$92,001.97	—	\$21,949.55	\$113,951.52
Perez, Derek	\$79,531.09	—	\$34,132.09	\$113,663.18
McCarthy, Donovan	\$78,902.79	—	\$34,007.48	\$112,910.27
Byrd, Adam	\$73,718.14	—	\$38,573.11	\$112,291.25
Sweet, Frederick	\$77,011.48	—	\$33,511.84	\$110,523.32
Smith, Amy	\$84,845.73	—	\$25,510.10	\$110,355.83
Barry, Ryan	\$79,824.07	—	\$29,823.30	\$109,647.37
Bidwell, Ryan	\$70,937.86	—	\$38,150.78	\$109,088.64
Wright, Jason	\$75,000.00	—	\$32,244.25	\$107,244.25
Wehrman, Patrick	\$73,736.08	—	\$32,868.23	\$106,604.31
Harrison, Dale	\$75,411.45	—	\$31,091.26	\$106,502.71
Hayes, Christopher	\$73,420.40	—	\$32,806.19	\$106,226.59
Valinski, Christopher	\$71,813.18	—	\$32,490.38	\$104,303.56
King, Mark	\$65,439.02	—	\$36,843.00	\$102,282.02
Fey, Christopher	\$64,776.23	—	\$36,710.88	\$101,487.11
Short, Jordan	\$67,781.58	—	\$32,703.82	\$100,485.40
Bettendorf, William	\$62,464.25	—	\$30,685.95	\$93,150.20
Dougherty, Eric	\$69,606.54	—	\$21,185.75	\$90,792.29
Long, Michael	\$64,681.06	—	\$20,995.82	\$85,676.88
Venier, Andrew	\$59,582.19	—	\$20,460.52	\$80,042.71
Herrick, Christopher	\$52,721.34	—	\$22,680.29	\$75,401.63
Moening, Michael	\$49,848.37	\$702.48	\$24,710.34	\$75,261.19
Traster, Carrie	\$39,361.62	—	\$34,930.17	\$74,291.79
Griggs, Scott	\$46,069.28	—	\$25,904.37	\$71,973.65
Hillen, James	\$48,993.08	—	\$15,230.66	\$64,223.74
Tront, Jason	\$50,625.56	—	\$13,085.66	\$63,711.22
Martin, Jason	—	\$22,916.20	\$19,288.65	\$42,204.85
Folks, Ronald	—	\$32,974.00	\$2,414.37	\$35,388.37
Brouillette, David	—	\$32,912.60	\$2,461.96	\$35,374.56
Smith, Ryan	—	\$32,836.50	\$2,459.22	\$35,295.72
Marcotte, Lacey	—	\$32,274.00	\$2,417.97	\$34,691.97
Walter, Danieal	—	\$31,987.85	\$2,401.91	\$34,389.76
Doty, Douglas	—	\$23,081.80	\$1,705.88	\$24,787.68
Skotak, Ian	—	\$22,838.45	\$1,715.65	\$24,554.10

(continued on page 3)

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**Belleville-Ypsilanti Bean Bag Fundraiser Tourney**

Where: Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Where: Wayne County Community College

Address: 9555 Haggerty Hwy, Belleville, MI 48111

Time: Register at 10:30 AM and Tournaments will start at 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Type of Tourney: Double Elimination with teams (fun, competitive, youth) and a singles tourney. Bring your partner.

Costs: Fun - \$10, Competition - \$20, Singles - \$10 (\$5 if also in doubles), Youth - \$5

Prizes: Cash prize for top 2 teams in competitive division. Other tournaments will have other prizes. Long Toss; 50/50 and other raffles!

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With purchase of beverage per person  
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Coupon may not be combined. Dine-in only. Expires 2/29/2016



**Mini Breakfast - \$2.25**  
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With purchase of beverage per person  
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Coupon may not be combined. Dine-in only. Expires 2/29/2016

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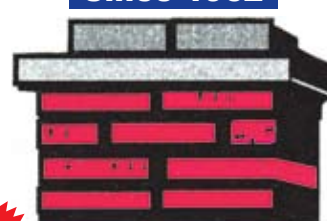
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# SECOND FRONT PAGE

## 8th Annual Report to Taxpayers

(continued from page 1)

Van Buren Township Public Safety Department Employees Wages & Actual Cost to Township 1/1/15 - 12/31/15				
Employee Name	Police Wages	Fire Wages	Benefits	Total Compensation
Henderson, John	_____	\$21,779.60	\$1,629.82	\$23,409.42
Hayden, John	_____	\$20,439.00	\$1,535.64	\$21,974.64
Spence, Rachel	_____	\$19,972.30	\$1,507.87	\$21,480.17
Landstrom, Kenneth	_____	\$19,211.40	\$1,451.30	\$20,662.70
Queen, Timothy	_____	\$18,768.40	\$1,418.62	\$20,187.02
Cox, Dustin	_____	\$18,168.55	\$1,373.97	\$19,542.52
Hamill, Richard Jr.	_____	\$17,975.00	\$1,371.51	\$19,346.51
DeWitt, Charles	_____	\$17,935.60	\$1,332.63	\$19,268.23
Van Gemert, Bruce	_____	\$17,898.20	\$1,368.21	\$19,266.41
Lunsford, Curtis	_____	\$17,906.80	\$1,330.02	\$19,236.82
Shores, Michael	_____	\$17,696.40	\$1,314.79	\$19,011.19
Roy, Christopher	_____	\$17,647.15	\$1,328.90	\$18,976.05
Vlademar, Michael	_____	\$16,954.40	\$1,283.51	\$18,237.91
McCormick, Elizabeth	_____	\$15,288.60	\$2,199.66	\$17,488.26
Sorrell, Todd	_____	\$13,570.40	\$1,031.40	\$14,601.80
Worth, Joshua	_____	\$13,079.30	\$1,006.78	\$14,086.08
Ferris, James	_____	\$12,409.00	\$956.95	\$13,365.95
Fleming, Pamela	\$40,600.00	_____	\$28,041.32	\$68,641.32
Laskaska, Patrick	_____	\$11,868.80	\$904.37	\$12,773.17
Kowalski, Greg	_____	\$11,829.45	\$913.20	\$12,742.65
Rose, John	_____	\$10,993.20	\$851.37	\$11,844.57
Fondaw, Kyle	_____	\$10,342.89	\$789.67	\$11,132.56
Griffin, LaMar	_____	\$9,118.30	\$698.16	\$9,816.46
Campbell, Bronson	_____	\$8,388.31	\$641.71	\$9,030.02
Brandel, Gabriel	\$7,196.31	_____	\$1,640.66	\$8,836.97
Pierce, Christopher	_____	\$7,754.54	\$597.27	\$8,351.81
Hoggard, Clay	\$5,116.92	_____	\$1,027.69	\$6,144.61
Crain, Andrew	_____	\$3,656.30	\$283.02	\$3,939.32
Hungerford, Thomas	_____	\$2,464.16	\$202.16	\$2,666.32
Orloff, Steven	_____	\$2,252.98	\$178.84	\$2,431.82
Gudith, Bradley	_____	\$2,221.90	\$191.59	\$2,413.49
Ladach, Aaron	_____	\$2,225.09	\$180.83	\$2,405.92
Gazdag, Kyle	_____	\$2,182.95	\$176.44	\$2,359.39
Hayes, Angela	_____	\$2,147.40	\$192.35	\$2,339.75
Eakes, Warren	_____	\$1,944.58	\$154.72	\$2,099.30
Kerns, Matthew	_____	\$1,769.08	\$152.47	\$1,921.55
Jovanelly, Matthew	_____	\$1,552.53	\$135.18	\$1,687.71
Bias, Cory	_____	\$1,434.39	\$106.87	\$1,541.26
Gazdag, Kody	_____	\$1,166.83	\$112.15	\$1,278.98
Timm, Dana	_____	\$927.58	\$82.90	\$1,010.48
Sutherby, Collin	_____	\$372.94	\$27.78	\$400.72

Dispatch				
Dispatch	Wages	Fire Wages	Benefits	Total Compensation
McNally, David	\$64,905.27	\$46,273.43	\$34,227.32	\$145,406.02
Lucas, Gretchen	\$65,417.09		\$31,039.57	\$96,456.66
Brooks, Terri	\$62,283.94		\$28,231.92	\$90,515.86
Jones, Julie	\$63,273.29		\$19,763.58	\$83,036.87
Rea, Teri	\$61,568.67		\$20,595.18	\$82,163.85
Martin, Robert	\$62,788.10		\$12,955.19	\$75,743.29
Baker, Georgia	\$59,543.42		\$15,308.94	\$74,852.36
Wolfe, Sally	\$53,277.39		\$15,490.43	\$68,767.82
Smolinski, Whitney	\$14,707.44		\$4,165.23	\$18,872.67

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## Van Buren Township Employee Wages & Actual Cost to Twp. 1/1/15 - 12/31/15

	Wages	Benefits	Total Compensation
<b>Elected Officials</b>			
Combs, Linda	\$81,491.00	\$33,074.66	\$114,565.66
Wright, Leon	\$78,700.00	\$40,265.33	\$118,965.33
Budd, Sharry	\$80,200.00	\$35,982.21	\$116,182.21
Jahr, Jeffery	\$15,283.08	\$10,774.70	\$26,057.78
McClanahan, Brenda	\$15,126.83	\$10,927.72	\$26,054.55
Hart, Phillip	\$15,351.00	\$5,742.63	\$21,093.63
Miller, Regina	\$15,126.83	\$3,029.94	\$18,156.77
<b>Assessing Dept.</b>			
Stevenson, Linda	\$60,338.29	\$36,698.69	\$97,036.98
Guenther, William	\$26,641.53	\$2,038.07	\$28,679.60
Dorazio, Gina	\$8,861.25	\$677.89	\$9,539.14
<b>Board of Review</b>			
Jensen, Juanita	\$600.00	\$45.90	\$645.90
Nettro, Angela	\$600.00	\$45.90	\$645.90
Roesch, Harry III	\$600.00	\$45.90	\$645.90
Speaks, Loretta	\$360.00	\$27.54	\$387.54
<b>Building Dept.</b>			
Akers, Ronald	\$25,478.91	\$12,625.35	\$38,104.26
Fields, Judy	\$85,885.00	\$34,393.01	\$120,278.01
Grishaber, Tina	\$50,772.67	\$17,906.40	\$68,679.07
Kurtz, Brenda	\$34,034.74	\$19,080.77	\$53,115.51
Knowles, Murray	\$33,261.46	\$7,926.08	\$41,187.54
Best, Matthew	\$19,716.48	\$7,767.87	\$27,484.35
Fecho, Darrell	\$12,255.95	\$4,273.56	\$16,529.51
DiSanto, Mark	\$10,290.02	\$3,967.11	\$14,257.13
Halstead, Anna	\$5,752.25	\$1,375.99	\$7,128.24
<b>Building/Grounds</b>			
Fondaw, Jeffery	\$69,836.50	\$30,393.56	\$100,230.06
Jenkins, Kirk	\$61,304.70	\$34,718.62	\$96,023.32
Turner, William	\$56,840.00	\$30,007.48	\$86,847.48
Burgor, Michael	\$55,019.59	\$26,325.08	\$81,344.67
Esch, Charles	\$47,216.39	\$16,394.90	\$63,611.29
Taylor, Gerald	\$31,540.28	\$22,061.37	\$53,601.65
Miller, Patty	\$32,840.22	\$9,798.73	\$42,638.95
<b>Cable Dept.</b>			
McCracken, Alwena	\$45,000.00	\$12,797.77	\$57,797.77
Bliefeld, Nicole	\$10,462.50	\$800.39	\$11,262.89
Carnacchi, Robert	\$5,332.50	\$407.94	\$5,740.44
Fuentes, Melina	\$4,642.50	\$355.16	\$4,997.66
<b>Clerk's Dept.</b>			
Montgomery, Joanne	\$65,907.00	\$17,344.82	\$83,251.82

(continued on page 13)



# OPINIONS

## Editorial

### VBPS: It's finally hitting the fan

A longtime critic of the administration at Van Buren Public Schools said last week end, "It's finally hitting the fan."

He referred to a series of events that has brought the school administration into the spotlight in Southeastern Michigan – and not in a good way.

Parents are very upset about the gun with bullets that a student had at BHS and they weren't informed about.

They are upset at the superintendent's cheating accusations at Savage school that has tainted the careers of at least five teachers they love and trust.

They also are upset about the school threat on Monday that was credible or not credible, depending on who you talked to, and some parents removed their students from school.

They are livid about the way parents were treated at Monday's board meeting as Supt. Van Tassel refused to speak at all. A mother who tried to speak with Van Tassel on Tuesday was taken away by police. A father also was unsuccessful in meeting with Van Tassel on Tuesday.

The parents are not done and plan to wrest control of their schools from this arrogant superintendent and weak school board.

### Salaries report under way

We have begun our annual reports to taxpayers on what they are paying their workers. All local governmental bodies have cooperated, with Belleville being the first to furnish its information and VBPS the last. We'll publish week by week.

## EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

A lady used to call our office and say, "Hi, Rosemary. This is the other Rosemary." That was Rosemary Piotkowicz, who passed away at her home in Sumpter on Friday.

I've known her for about 25 years. I met her when I was working for Sharron Russell at *The View*. Rosemary was taking care of her elderly mother at the time and she would take her mom around town to socialize when she was wheel-chair bound. We at *The View* all went out to the car and talked with Mrs. Piotkowicz, who lived to be more than 100 under her daughter's loving care.

Rosemary was under hospice care since about the first of January and we talked about what she wanted to do once summer came. She had her chickens and her fire wood to cut up and stack. And, her two dogs were being taken care of while she was ailing. She really missed her dogs and worried if they were warm enough.

I remember her tales of how a former dog warden for Sumpter used to bring over some of the dogs he picked up for her to care for. She was especially good at working with those difficult pit bulls.

Rosemary got tired of paying high oil bills a few years ago and got rid of her oil furnace and began heating with wood. She had a large cache of wood at her back door, but as she became weaker and had problems with her legs, volunteers had to bring the wood in. She still could reach around her walker and tend to the wood stove and heat her food on the stove.

She sewed all her own clothes. She was a strong, private, pioneer-type woman who cared very much for her friends and

...By Rosemary K. Otzman



appreciated Mary Ann Watson and others who cared for her during her final days and Sumpter Supervisor John Morgan, who took her to the hospital in December, as he had other times. Other Sumpter officials took her to doctor appointments over the years.

We will miss her a lot – that other Rosemary.

\*\*\*

One of our readers called to ask how Joe Moore is doing. He was concerned about Joe and missed him.

Joe is the man who used to sell the Sunday Detroit Free Press/News at Frosty Boy early Sunday mornings.

I called Joe and he said he had bypass surgery in October and everything is working well and he has passed tests that show his recovery. He said he is resting and looking for a job.

Joe said he is avoiding cold weather because he can't take it anymore.

Joe was pleased that someone asked about him and pleased that I called. We do miss him and wish him the best.

\*\*\*

Jimmy at Willow Road party store, on the corner of Sumpter Road in Sumpter Township, reports that one of his regular customers bought three tickets to scratch off last week, and one of them was worth \$1 million. He said he thinks the man doesn't wish to be named.

That's OK with us. Paul Eaton called us

to alert us to the million-dollar ticket sale and to tell our readers that this is a lucky place to buy a ticket.

\*\*\*

I read a story in the *Detroit Free Press* recently that talked about rebuilding cities and quoted at length from a new book, "Roads to Prosperity," that will be published in 2017. The study says not to depend on trendy stuff -- like downtown aquariums, for example -- to rebuild a city, but to bank on the basics: good schools and public safety.

We knew that. If you have good schools and feel safe in a community, the frills will take care of themselves.

\*\*\*

It was kind of an unruly crowd at Monday's school board work/study meeting. The parents were upset and they were not comforted at all by the board members who were supposed to be supporting them.


As of Tuesday morning, there were 1,545 signatures on an online petition asking the board to fire School Supt. Van Tassel.

Parents and others supporting Savage and its teachers and students are wearing orange T-shirts with "Savage Strong" on them.

This November's school board election ought to be a doozy.

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**BELLEVILLE - AREA  
INDEPENDENT**

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"Learn from yesterday, live for today,  
 hope for tomorrow. The important thing  
 is not to stop questioning."

— Albert Einstein

## Letters

### I do not believe we have cheating problem

To the Editor:

Despite the recent bad publicity that Van Buren School administration has brought to our schools and to our community, I do not believe for one minute we have a cheating problem among our teachers. (This investigation at Savage School "cheating" was District-initiated. One guess who initiated this investigation chaos?)

Rather, we have an inept administration with a star Superintendent that has a monumental ego. While the chaos goes on around them, the school board is asleep at the switch, snoring loudly. (Board member Sherry Frazier is the lone voice of sense and sensibility in this sad saga.)

From my perspective, our schools are the under the leadership of a superintendent who is clueless about good management. He is clueless about:

1. Getting good results from good teachers,
2. Treating all staff with respect,
3. Promoting student achievement,
4. Developing students with a fundamental sense of well-being.

Within the next few weeks our Superintendent will have his annual evaluation. I believe he needs to be evaluated out the door. The sooner the better.

Where is one sensible word from our school board to brake this chaos? They need to go out with the door with the Superintendent and the mess their neglect of duty has caused.

Barbara Miller  
 A Van Buren Resident

### Letter to Board: 'Shame on you for allowing this'

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is with regret and dismay that I reduce to writing my sentiments relating to the current state of events looming over the Van Buren School Board and Administration. My family has had a voice in this community since the 1940s and I can guarantee that we have never been so embarrassed by the innuendo and accusations arising from the current state of affairs.

Relating to the three letters that were posted on the HOME page of the VBPS website:

A. The State Site indicates that M-Step can NOT be compared to MEAP yet Mr. Van Tassel uses comparative analogies in his letter to the Board. Please explain reasoning for this comparison or are these

items interjected to simply cloud the issue?

B. The State Site indicates that because of NON-comparable issues, the 2015 scores were only used as baseline testimony for subsequent testing. Why were Savage School scores redacted under those circumstances?

C. Further, if these were baseline scores, what logic was employed to suggest that improprieties occurred? It just doesn't pass any sense of logic that someone would cheat to elicit higher test scores, i.e. how could they expect that level of achievement in subsequent years testing unless they were committed to their ability to teach and to their students' ability to perform based on that teaching?

D. The State M-Step Site Parental Manual does not speak to TIME LIMITS. Why are they analyzed and compared for the public in Mr. Van Tassel's letter? Again this makes no logical sense. When employing perception to construct questions for this investigation what thought was really given to the question of time taken..., does one take longer to cheat and give an answer OR allow that child to come to their own conclusion?

E. Many schools scored high in the Wayne County RESA community according to the State Site and M-Step scores. I would love to have seen Mr. Van Tassel's analytical tools and my tax dollars used to compare VBPS to other schools and applaud our teachers and students for a job well done. Who asked, and why was the state asked to open this self-investigation?

F. Who interrogated our student population relating to the M-Step investigation? Who determined that full disclosure and transparency as well as rights would be usurped and to what end? Did the state also provide you with guidelines for such interrogations? Was this an independent investigation or was there a prior relationship with any of the parties involved? Name them please. What questions were asked? What were the responses? I'd like that to be made public.

G. Savage school M-Step scores do not show a NON-PROFICIENT in their testing model, yet the other elementary schools in district demonstrated a high level of test scores at that level (NON-PROFICIENT). Has an investigation been conducted at those other schools to determine WHY that occurred? What Administrative repercussion can we expect imposed on the educators at those schools?

H. I would have expected that all Savage school teachers were interrogated equally under the investigation of the M-Step scores. The RUMOR mill suggests that GT teachers were above reproach and not expected to participate in every one of the interrogations. My question is what would preclude you to determine GT teachers any less culpable when their student scores are used in the overall averaging. And, why have the GT children been interrogated now POST initial investigation period? The word DISCRIMINATION comes to mind here – can you speak to the District's

(continued on page 6)

*"Another good thing about being poor is that when you are seventy your children will not have you declared legally insane in order to gain control of your estate."*

--Woody Allen



**BARBARA ROGALLE MILLER**  
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# More Letters

(continued from page 5)

policy on the subject?

I. As elected officials to the VBPS Board, I am interested in your comments on the fact that Savage School maintains the GT program and is an affluent model of our district. As such, is represented not only by the testimony on display of our student population scores, but also the behaviors of exemplary, nurturing and supportive TAXPAYING parents.

J. As it relates to the M-Step investigation, specifically the interrogation of the students, what consideration was extended to their psychological well-being?

K. Lastly, the gun issue at the high school. My question: What policies exist for full disclosure? If parents were not notified, were the parents of the children involved in the issue notified to ensure their safety? What if the expelled student decided to take the fight to the street – or

across the street from our high school? Our parents need to know that their children are protected daily as they leave their homes for school attendance. You have fiduciary responsibility and a duty to provide that safety and security and to keep your populous informed to form their own opinions.

I hope you recognize the gravity of this situation. A multitude of your populous

is disgusted and enraged by the treatment of our educators and students, and the rubberstamp atmosphere that permeates this school administration. **This behavior is NOT acceptable and will NOT be tolerated. Our students deserve better, our teachers deserve better, we deserve better. Shame on you for allowing this to occur!**

Kathy Billings

**Editor's Note:** The above letter was emailed on Monday afternoon to all seven members of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education.

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## Obituaries



Marilyn Lee Montgomery

### MARILYN L. MONTGOMERY

(February 12, 1935 – January 24, 2016)

Marilyn Lee Montgomery, age 80, of Belleville, MI, passed away Sunday, January 24, 2016 at her daughter's home, surrounded by her children and grandchildren, after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer.

On February 12, 1935, Marilyn was born in Cleveland, Ohio to Olive Frances Domen (McConaughy) and Reymont James Domen. She was the second of nine children. While Marilyn was small the family moved from Ohio to Detroit, Michigan. She attended Detroit Public Schools for early elementary. As the family grew, they moved to Belleville, Michigan. Marilyn was in a long line of Domen children to graduate from Belleville High School. She graduated with the class of 1953. This was the first class of 100 students to graduate from BHS. Marilyn met and married the love of her life, George E. Montgomery in 1955. Together they raised a loving family.

Marilyn was an innovative thinker. At a time when women were to be homemakers, Marilyn was a career woman. She worked for her father at his window making company as an office manager. She worked for Van Buren Public Schools as a Secretary at South Junior High (now Owen Intermediate). When she did decide to be home with her family, Marilyn still worked tirelessly to improve her community. She worked to organize the bicentennial celebrations in Belleville. Served as a commissioner on the Water and Sewer board to bring safe water to the homes of the area. She helped to successfully pass the millage for school improvements in the '70s and early '80s. She was politically active and yet found time to attend Little League baseball games, Girl Scout meetings, and sew doll clothes for her daughter.

In the 1980s Marilyn ran and successfully gained a seat on the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees. She served her community in the capacity of being a liaison for the board in the Senior Center, the Environmental Commission, and beginning the work to create a district library.

She worked at the Washtenaw Council for Children at Risk as a secretary and then moved to Washtenaw Community College. She earned her associates degree from Washtenaw. She worked to help build the business education building. During this time, Marilyn served as the union president for the AFSCME local of clerical workers at the college. Marilyn retired from WCC in 1996 after losing her husband George.

Many homeowners in the area might remember Marilyn in her career as a realtor. She began her real estate career selling for Remerica – Hometown Realty in Belleville. She later moved and finally retired from Remax Crossroads III in Belleville.

Throughout her life Marilyn remained active in the community. She was a member of the Belleville United Methodist Church. She volunteered by calling seniors unable to leave their homes. She also volunteered in the community food pantry when asked. She helped to create the Friends of the Library to support

programs within our library. As a member of the Belleville Area Women's Club, Marilyn was able to continue to lobby for an essential cause – Equal Pay for Equal Work regardless of gender. She served in many capacities for the club. She was also a member of the Past Presidents Club. Marilyn had a great number of hobbies. She liked to draw and paint, she did find time to do a little bit here and there. She loved music and would play piano or sing with the radio. Marilyn loved reading; she would curl up with a good book at any time. She loved to travel with family and friends. She had been to Niagara Falls several times, northern Michigan, Alaska, cross-country in the US and a few cruises.

She is survived by her daughters, Deborah Wilson (Wayne) of McKinney, Texas, Christina Brasil (Ronald) of Belleville, and her son Thomas Montgomery (Joanne) of Belleville. She has 7 Grandchildren; Melanie Leal (Ricky), Christopher Boyd (Sarai), Sarah Montgomery, Stephen Montgomery, Alex Brasil, Michelle Poloskey, and Andrew Brasil. She has 7 Great-Grandchildren. Marilyn is also survived by her brothers Fred Domen (Darlene) of Covina, California, Bruce Domen of Belleville, Daniel Domen (Darlene) of Rochester Hills, and a sister Alberta Grignon (Ted) of New Bern, NC and many nieces and nephews. Marilyn is preceded in death by her husband George, mother Olive, father Reymont, step-father Robert Howard, sisters Jeanne Chudzinski and Martha Hendricks, and brother Paul Domen.

Visitation was Tuesday 1-4 PM and 6-8 PM. Funeral Services were 1:00 PM Wednesday, January 27, 2016 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 697-4500. Rev. Jim Walker officiated. Visitation was 11:00 AM until the time of service. Interment was in Hillside Cemetery, Belleville.

Memorial contributions may be made to pancreatic cancer research and would be greatly appreciated. Please sign her on-line guest book and share a memory for her family to cherish at [www.davidcbrownfh.com](http://www.davidcbrownfh.com).



Rosemary Piotkowicz

### ROSEMARY PIOTKOWICZ

(August 29, 1933 – January 22, 2016)

Ms. Rosemary Piotkowicz passed away Friday, January 22, 2016 at her home in Sumpter Township.

She was born August 29, 1933 in Detroit, Michigan a daughter of Paul and Catherine (Tinic) Piotkowicz. She graduated from Belleville High School in the class of 1951.

Rosemary enjoyed her home where she had her pets and raised chickens. Prior to retirement she had been a bank teller for many years. There was a visitation on Wednesday, January 27, 2016 from 5-7 p.m. at the Higgerson & Neal Funeral Home, 209 Main St., Belleville (734-697-9400). Private burial will be at Woodmere Cemetery, Detroit.

**More Obituaries  
on page 8**

# Obituaries



Jerry Allan Hagerman

## **JERRY ALLAN HAGERMAN**

(October 27, 1955 – January 17, 2016)

Jerry Allan Hagerman, 60, of Ypsilanti Township, passed away on Sunday, January 17, after being struck by a motor vehicle on Textile Road in Ypsilanti Township.

He is the son of James, Sr. and Mary Jane Hagerman. Jerry was retired from General Motors after 30 years of service as an electrician and a UAW member.

He is survived by his mother, Mary Jane (Maris) Hagerman-Piziks of Ann Arbor; his daughters Jennifer (Auston) Gentz of Belleville and Julie Hagerman of Belleville; four grandchildren, Hunter Douglas, Aidan James, Cole Ryan, and Riley Jane Gentz; sister Joyce Hagerman of Belleville; brothers Jeffrey (Tina) Hagerman of Janesville, Wisconsin, and John (Debi) Hagerman of Belleville; and several nieces, nephews, cousins, and many friends who will miss him dearly.

He is preceded in death by his father, James, Sr., and his older brother, James, Jr.

Jerry is a graduate of Belleville High School's Class of 1973. Cremation has taken place and a Celebration of His Life is planned for a later date.



Kenneth Ray Mangus

## **KENNETH RAY MANGUS**

(July 25, 1946 – January 17, 2016)

Kenneth Ray Mangus, age 69, of Van Buren Township, MI, passed away January 17, 2016. He was born July 25, 1946 in Urbana, Ohio, son of Cecil Ira & Gladys (Litreal) Mangus. He loved the outdoors, hunting, especially deer. Mr. Mangus is survived by his loving wife of 48 years, Janice Faye (Brown) Mangus; two daughters Shelli (David) Osborne and Kenda Mangus, both of Belleville, MI; God-daughter Julia Huren, her mother Loretta who was like a daughter to Ken; two grandsons Tony Garlick and Shane Garlick; great-grandson Wyatt Garlick; two sisters Peg and Betty; a brother Floyd; also numerous nieces, nephews and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents. Cremation has taken place. A memorial service was held at 1:00 PM Sunday, January 24, 2016 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111-2764 (734) 697-4500. Pastor Gordon Moore officiated. The family welcomed friends from 12-1 PM.

Memorial contributions may be made to the family. Please sign his on-line guest book and share a memory for the family to treasure at [www.davidcbrownfh.com](http://www.davidcbrownfh.com).



Walter Raymond Skszek



## **WALTER R. SKSZEK**

(August 31, 1923 – January 19, 2016)

Walter R. Skszek, 92, passed away at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital on Tuesday, January 19, 2016. Walter was born on August 31, 1923 in Belleville, Michigan to Joseph and Helen Skszek. Walter graduated from Belleville High School in 1942 and attended Normal State College (EMU). Walter served as an Army medical supply officer in WW2 in the Pacific Theater. He married the love of his life, Dorothy Krzezewski, in 1949 (66 years of marriage).

Walter is survived by his loving wife, Dorothy, two children, Karen Skszek Mida (William) and Timothy Skszek (Elizabeth), two grandchildren, Jason Mida (Kimberly) and Tammy Mida Kennedy (Joseph), and two cherished great grandchildren, Ella and Samuel Mida. He is also survived by his sister, Stephanie (Skszek) Soja, and many nieces and nephews. Besides his own children and grandchildren, Walter was a "Dad" and "Grandpa" to many people in Belleville.

Walter was a Master electrician and served as an officer and Assistant Business Manager of IBEW Electrical Workers Local Union #252 for 66 years. He loved his cottage in Northern Michigan where he enjoyed time with his family, hunting and fishing. Walter and Dorothy traveled extensively and especially enjoyed their trips to Poland where they traced Walter's heritage and found treasured family members. Walter was an active member and Honor Guard of the VFW and PLAV, and was a member of the Eagles. He served on various committees in Van Buren Township and was a Little League Coach.

Visitation for Walter was Friday, January 22 from 2-8 p.m. at the David Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI. On Saturday, January 23, Walter laid in state at St. Anthony Catholic Church from 10 -11 a.m. preceding an 11:00 Funeral Mass.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Electrical Workers IBEW Local #252 JATC or St. Anthony Church, Belleville.

## **JAMES ARNOLD HESSLER, SR.**

(July 27 1936 – January 17, 2016)

Age 79, longtime resident of Willis. Survived by 7 children, 13 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren, and sister Gayle. Private graveside service will be held in the spring. David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville.

## **CLARA MAE WEISHUHN**

(May 18, 1945 – January 18, 2016)

Age 70 of Belleville. Survived by husband Leslie; 2 daughters; 5 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren; 3 sisters. Service 10 a.m. Saturday at Morning Star Old Regular Baptist Church, 44441 Clay Rd. Brown Funeral Home.



Randal Richard Lancaster



## **RANDAL RICHARD LANCASTER**

(February 3, 1958 – January 22, 2016)

Randal Richard Lancaster, age 57, of Saline, MI, formerly of Belleville, MI, passed away Friday, January 22, 2016 at University Hospitals, Ann Arbor, MI. He was born February 3, 1958 in Wayne, MI, son of Richard Baker & Doris Ann (Brimner) Lancaster. Randy was a member of the Belleville High School Class of 1976. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army. Randy was an electrician and owned and operated BJ&R Contracting for many years. He was a member of the Adrian Moose Lodge. He enjoyed hunting and was an avid golfer. Most of all, he cherished time spent with his family.

Survived by his loving wife of 34 years, Bonnie Ann (Dingman) Lancaster, two sons Brandon (Ally Stone) Lancaster and Josh Lancaster, grandson Timothy Lancaster, all of Saline, mother & father-in-law Virginia & Stuart Dingman of Belleville, MI, three brothers James (Peggy) Lancaster of Romulus, MI, Kim Mark (LeAnn) Lancaster of Sumpter Township, MI and Van Sean Lancaster of Belleville, brothers-in-law Perry (Cathy) Dingman of Saline and Danny Dingman of Belleville, nieces & nephews James (Eva), Lori (Aaron), Lane (Laila), Trevor, Dennis, Bethany, Jeremy, Jennifer (Jeremy), Jessica (Donnie) and Evan, great-nieces & nephews Carson, Luke, Anna, Lincoln, Grant, Adriana, Jayce, Ava, Bentley and Braeden. Also survived by numerous relatives and friends. Randy was preceded in death by his parents.

Visitation will be 2-8 PM Wednesday at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111 (734)697-4500. Memorial Service will be Thursday, January 28, 2016 at 11:00 AM at Bethany Bible Church, 810 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111. Visitation will be 10-11 AM at the church. Memorial contributions may be made to the family and would be appreciated. Please sign his on-line guest book and share a memory for his family to treasure at [www.davidcbrownfh.com](http://www.davidcbrownfh.com).



Cecilia Zehel

## **CECILIA ZEHEL**

(July 1, 1921 – January 24, 2016)

Cecilia Zehel, age 94, of Sumpter Township, MI, passed away Sunday, January 24, 2016 at Arbor Hospice - The Residence, Ann Arbor, MI. She was born July 1, 1921 in Detroit, MI, daughter of Albert & Anna (Groth) Dzwilielski. She was a member of St. Anthony Catholic Church, Belleville and September Days Senior Citizens. She enjoyed playing Bingo, lottery tickets, and trips to the casinos. Most of all, she loved spending time with her family.

Cecilia is survived by three sons Valentine Paul (Angela) Zehel, Jr. of Westland, MI, Edmund Lewis (Mary) Zehel of Sumpter Township, MI and Francis "Frank" Jerome (Holly) Zehel of Van Buren Township, MI; nine grandchildren Julie Ann (Erik) Sajdak, Valentine Paul (Rae) Zehel III, Shere Nicole Zehel, Christee (Jeff) Sykes, Carree (Michael) Elrod, Mary Sharp, William (Danielle) Zehel, Bethany (Eros Vasquez) Zehel and Aaron Zehel; 9 great-grandchildren and 11 great-great-grandchildren; numerous nieces, nephews and friends, including a friend of 92 years, Sophie Brudzinski.

Mrs. Zehel was preceded in death by her parents, husband Valentine Paul Zehel, Sr. on November 14, 1977, two brothers and three sisters. Visitation was 2-8 PM Wednesday with a 7:30 PM Rosary service at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 697-4500. Prayers Thursday, January 28, 2016 at 10:30 AM at the funeral home, processing to St. Anthony Catholic Church, for an 11:00 AM Funeral Mass. Father Thomas H. Cusick will serve as Celebrant. Interment will be in Hillside Cemetery, Belleville. Memorial contributions to Arbor Hospice or in the form of Mass Cards would be appreciated. Please sign her on-line guest book and share a memory for her family to treasure at [www.davidcbrownfh.com](http://www.davidcbrownfh.com).

## More Letters

## Bean Bag Tournament to raise money for camp

To the Editor:

I would like to make our community aware of a great event to raise money for our local kids to go to camp. Young Life is a Christian Youth Outreach Organization that is celebrating its 75th year nationally and its fifth year locally.

Belleville-Ypsilanti Young Life is locally supported and reaches out to Middle and High School students from this area.

We are having a Bean Bag Tournament to raise money to send our local teens to camp. The event will be held, Saturday, Jan. 30, at Wayne County Community College District, 9555 Haggerty Hwy., Belleville.

Registration begins at 10:30 a.m. and the tournament will start at 11 a.m. and will finish at 3 p.m. This will be a double-elimination tournament; divisions will be Fun or Competitive; Adults, Youth, and a Singles Tourney.

Cost is \$10 for the Fun division, \$20 for Competitive, \$10 for Singles (\$5 if also in doubles) Youth \$5. Cash prizes for the top two teams in the competitive division. Other tournaments will have other prizes. Long Toss; 50/50 and other raffles!

Register at [www.semicornhole.com/events.html](http://www.semicornhole.com/events.html).

Thanks so much!  
Susan Walker  
Belleville-Ypsilanti Young Life  
Chairperson

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28



# Hostile crowd

(continued from page 1)

Rytman first spoke under the Agenda Items part of the agenda, discussing the Climate Survey that had been given and was to be discussed that evening.

Rytman gave information on the percentages of teachers leaving since 2012 when Van Tassel became superintendent. He said it is more akin to an inner city school, running from about 16% in 2012-13 to 21% in 2014-15.

He said there were 164 teachers that have

left through the current administration.

He said he received 10 telephone calls since the last board meeting and some people said they are afraid to talk openly because they are afraid of retribution against themselves, family members, and their students.

Rytman asked for a formal, independent investigation to look at the climate in the schools and said the hostile environment needs to be identified.

"So we don't end up like Flint," he said. "There's something wrong and we need to identify it."

He asked the board to put on their next agenda and consider an independent investigation into why those teachers are leaving.

Rytman said he doesn't have all the facts on the Savage situation, but for those teachers to be walked out during school hours when the children were in class was not right.

He asked the board to look at what is the real situation. Board president Brent Mikulski called time on Rytman's remarks

and there was a long, standing applause from the crowd for Rytman as he stepped down.

"I'd like to interject that the board didn't know they were walking teachers out of Savage," said Trustee Sherry Frazier.

A man called out from the audience, "Mr. Moore knew. He was there." He referred to Director of Curriculum Jeff Moore who was at Savage along with Human Resources Director Shonta Langford-Green and those two did the teacher removals.

President Mikulski then read a written statement about how no employees should be named in the board meeting and other statements on the tests at Savage and the gun situation at BHS.

When Mikulski said not alerting the parents was "a judgment call by the principal," people in the audience called out they had seen Principal Abdul Madyun on TV and he said he and Supt. Van Tassel made the decision.

It was announced that Madyun would hold a town hall meeting at 6 p.m. Wednesday to answer parent questions on the gun, but it was a last-minute decision and no one could say where it would be held. Parents were told Van Tassel would not be there.

First speaker under the Non-Agenda Items part of the meeting was a father who started off with, "The truancy policy is horrible." He said his daughter has missed three months of classes and his son missed 21 days.

"And, bullets were in a different part of the backpack and was not a big deal? Are you kidding me?" he asked.

"I blame the principal, superintendent, and all of you sitting up there," he said to the board.

"We got a red alert on the gun," Trustee Frazier said. "I assumed notification had been sent out to parents."

The father said he thinks the board members should get the same alerts as parents. He said a school secretary told him the threat on Monday wasn't for Belleville.

Rytman said he had been a fire arms instructor and he would never say bullets near a weapon do not render that weapon dangerous.

"When he thought about bringing that gun to school, he endangered the students. ... When he entered that building with a gun he endangered the students," Rytman said.

He said the school board does not have all the information on the M-Step situation.

He said he was a former federal investigator and you can have the best case, but if you don't have all the evidence tied up, it will fail. He said parents have told him the students were confused when they were being questioned. They were asked repeatedly over and over in different ways about the test.

"This is setting the board up for a law suit," Rytman said. "The entire investigation is in jeopardy because of the way it was handled."

He urged the board to get an open investigation that can present the facts

(continued on page 10)

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# Hostile crowd

(continued from page 9)

to make sure the board has all the information.

He said he knows an investigator who is known statewide for his work whose approach is above reproach.

Michael Gentz held up a letter in a sealed plastic bag and said he received the anonymous letter in a school envelope without a metered stamp. He said it was supposedly from a "Savage employee" who had knowledge of the investigation.

Gentz said the letter said the district believes these teachers have cheated and "I should back off."

"I'm not gonna back down," Gentz stated.

"I support all the teachers in Van Buren Public Schools and I support Savage," Trustee Frazier said.

A mother asked why the public can't see the report from the state with all the names blacked out. She wants to know what the irregularities were.

"Parents are asking for results of the investigation," said Trustee Frazier. "We [board members] have not received results of the investigation."

Another mother said her youngest child who had been tested at Savage and moved up to Owen school this school year was handed an envelope openly at Owen.

She said those who were having their scores invalidated were openly given the letters, "so they could be pointed out as cheaters."

"This is the tip of the iceberg," she said. She said that day's supposed threat to the school came out at first that it wasn't this district and then it was.

She said she is ready to pull both of her children out of the district and be done with it.

Tamara Mayfield, a 2007 BHS graduate, said she works for a very transparent company and the school district should be transparent. She said her child would have cried for weeks over losing a teacher.

"We need you as board members, principals, teachers, to keep our children safe," she said.

She asked what the district is doing about the child that felt threatened enough to bring a gun to school.

Another parent, Kimberly Kowalski, said she went to the Department of Education web site to read about the new M-Step test that was created in 9 months instead of the years such tests usually take. The web site said this test cannot be compared to other tests and yet Van Tassel's letter compared it to MEAP and NWEA tests. The web site also said it is not tied to any funding or scholarships.

She said it is a flawed test that cannot be used to compare.

Trustee Frazier said the results were used to accuse Savage of cheating instead of praising them for accomplishing something respectable. "Some schools scored so low and nothing is said about them," she said.

People in the audience called out for Van Tassel to speak to that, but Van Tassel did not speak at all throughout the meeting. After the meeting he was trailed from the room by a Channel 4 camera and a reporter asking for an interview. All he said was, "No comment. No comment."

Van Tassel usually leads discussions at the work/study sessions, but not this time.

Angela Bennett, with students at BHS and Owen, said two of the honors teachers at the high school were removed from classes last week and sent for training, just a few weeks before exams.

She said the students are understandably stressed out. She said teachers in other districts have told her that never happens in their schools in the middle of the year.

She said with the way the hand gun in the high school was swept under the rug and the vague warning about threats to the school, "I've lost faith that the school protects our students."

She said she strongly questions the ability of Van Tassel to be an independent investigator in the Savage case.

"We will not stop pursuing this unless we get answers," she said.

Another mother said there was no reason to march out the teachers at Savage other than to humiliate them. When she went to the school on Friday, police were there, she said.

Parents said they were trying to protest but Van Tassel called Van Buren Township police who removed them from the property. On Monday, parents got permission to use subdivision property across the street and

(Continued on page 11)

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## Hostile crowd

(continued from page 10)

protested there. That's where the Channel 4 truck was parked on Monday.

Another mother said her fifth grader is brilliant and the whole class is brilliant, but then five teachers were removed and the integrity of the district brought into

question.

"My son came back home with a letter in an open envelope," she said. "When do you plan to discuss this with us? Teachers I highly respect have been accused."

"I want answers from our board. I want answers from our superintendent," she said.

A mother who said she graduated from BHS in the class of '94, said her son's underwear

was ripped off and he was videotaped. She said she saw this video on line of her son being harassed. She brought the issue to school and homecoming was cancelled and her son was threatened because students were blaming him. She said the incident was downplayed by the principal who called it a "wedgie." Nothing happened to the football players who did this to her son and they got to play as usual.

She said she took off work to come to this meeting. She suggested parents sue the district or remove their children from the district.

Trustee Frazier apologized to the parents. She said a bullying policy and a gun policy are in place and available to the district.

In other business, the board:

- Briefly discussed a proposed program that involves a lockdown of the school when a shooter is in the building. Curriculum Director Moore said this is just a brief overview, but "When an intruder is in our building, use some common sense." The crowd erupted in laughter at this comment, with one hollering out, "Great idea";

- Heard Moore say that the performance management program now calls for reports from every building, every month. "They may not get a good score if their tests are too high," called out one parent as she left the meeting;

- Heard a report on the anonymous, on-line Climate and Culture Survey of students, parents, and staff that found all of the district's results in positive or neutral stage. No results were given for comments and Rytman said there was a spot for comments because he entered comments when he took the survey. He said he questions the validity of the results. Rytman asked to be allowed to speak to clarify something and President Mikulski denied him the chance to speak. "The survey was a joke. Don't pat yourself on the back," he said, adding, "Administrative action taken against staff without the board being informed?"

An online petition to fire Van Tassel had more than 1,500 signatures by Tuesday noon.



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# Supt. Van Tassel takes five Savage Elementary teachers off their jobs

By Rosemary K. Oztman  
Independent Editor

On Thursday, two Van Buren Public Schools officials marched four teachers to the door with a single sheet of paper in their hands announcing that each has been placed on administrative leave.

On Friday, another teacher who was absent on Thursday, was shown the door.

School Supt. Michael Van Tassel had mentioned "potential discipline" of staff in an undated letter he had posted on the district's web site this month, but parents and staff were shocked at the sudden appearance at Savage of officials working at the direction of Van Tassel on teacher removal.

Human Resources Director Shonta Langford-Green and Curriculum Director Jeff Moore removed the teachers from their jobs on Thursday, while classes were in session.

Savage Principal Amy Gee and Moore would not allow the *Independent* into the building, with Gee saying that was because classes were in session. A Michigan Education Association union official advised the *Independent* to call the MEA Plymouth office (and we are still waiting for a return call).

Removed on Friday were Kristen Belloni, Brent Held, Shelly Komaromi, and Rebecca Tennis. Pamela Bradley was removed on Friday.

On Friday, parents passed out fliers announcing the four teacher removals the day before, not realizing one more was targeted Friday.

"First Mrs. Villa and now four more?" the flyer was headlined, referring to the resignation last summer of Principal Kelley Villa.

"Did you know that four Savage classrooms have had their teachers taken away?"

"Our beloved Mrs. Tennis, Mrs. Belloni, Mrs. Komaromi, and Mr. Held were instructed to leave the building yesterday," the flyer announced.

"They are gone after being accused of cheating on last year's M-Step testing. A spontaneous investigation by top administration claims that our students couldn't have done well on their tests alone, their teachers must have cheated!"

"Van Buren School's top officials recently had our Savage children pulled from their

classes and interviewed regarding last year's test without parent knowledge or consent, and no other advocate in the room. What were the questions? How did the children answer? No one knows.

"Did you know that these four teachers will most likely be added to the list of the dozens upon dozens other Van Buren teachers who have left since our Superintendent has taken over?"

"Why is top administration abusing teachers and driving them out of the district?"

The flyer encouraged parents to attend the Jan. 25 school board work/study session and to contact school board members for answers. The group of parents also has a Facebook page called #SavageStrong .

On Monday it was announced that Jason Cooper, a music teacher at Savage, had resigned.

## Student arrested, expelled after bringing gun, bullets to BHS

By Rosemary K. Oztman  
Independent Editor

A freshman student at Belleville High School has been arrested and expelled for bringing a 45-caliber pistol to school in his backpack, along with a loaded magazine.

Belleville Police Chief Hal Berriman said the young man was taken into custody the afternoon of Friday, Jan. 15, after school officials got information on the gun from another student and investigated.

Belleville Police Cpl. Kris Faull, who serves as School Resource Officer, and Officer Jeff Wickham went to the school and took the 14-year-old student into custody and confiscated the weapon, Chief Berriman said. They took the student to a juvenile facility in downtown Detroit where he was charged.

On Friday, Jan. 22, a week after the incident, a parent who just found out about the gun contacted Channel 4 TV News and a cameraman and reporter Shawn Ley went to BHS and talked to Principal Abdul Madyun, parents, and students.

A parent said he was upset because not one parent had been alerted to having a gun and ammunition in school, although the school had sent an alert when a student had strep throat.

He said a week after the incident parents had yet to hear from the school.

Principal Madyun said, "No children were ever in danger," and he and School Supt. Michael Van Tassel made the decision not

to alert parents.

School staff said they didn't hear about it until almost a week after the incident.

It was reported that the student stole the gun from a relative's home because he was having issues with another student and was scared of the other student's friends.

"There was not a loaded gun in school," Madyun told Channel 4. "So, again, where's the line?"

When reporter Ley persisted, Madyun did admit that, "There were bullets in the backpack. In a separate part."

The parent, whose face was not shown on camera, said if the bullets were in the backpack with the gun, he could take it into a restroom and load it in two seconds.

Madyun said if parents want to discuss why they were not informed of the weapon and ammunition in their school, he has an open-door policy or they could call.

He said he is ready to talk to and meet with parents about why an alert was not sent.

**Gun at Tyler Elementary**  
Van Buren Township Police Lt. Charles

Bazzy confirmed that VBT police were called to Tyler Elementary School on Jan. 12. An 8-year-old boy was found with a bb-gun in his backpack.

Lt. Bazzy said there were no bbs or CO2 cartridge with the gun.

He said police were told the school would handle the situation internally. Parents said they have not been informed of the gun in their school.

### Possible threat to BHS

On Monday, BHS was considered one of the schools that was threatened by an anonymous person on social media and some parents took their children out of classes.

Lt. Bazzy said Ann Arbor police were investigating threats in their jurisdiction and there were a rash of threats in Southeastern Michigan, including Romulus, Lake Orion, Roseville, and five in Detroit. There also were threats in San Francisco and southern Florida.

While some schools dismissed classes for the day, the Van Buren district considered the threat not credible.

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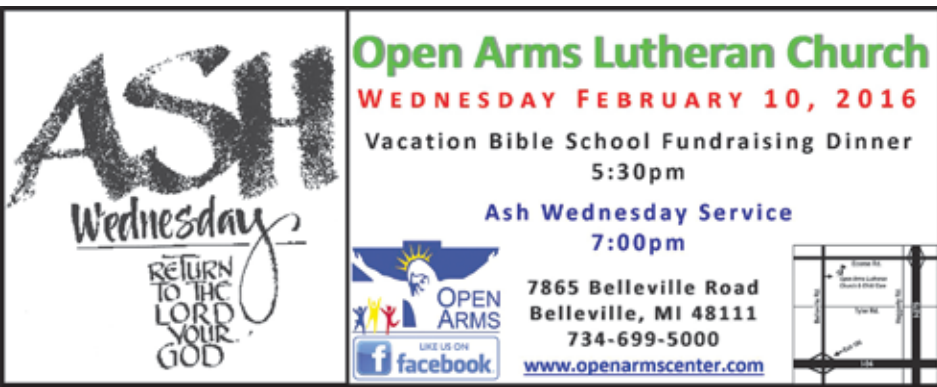
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# 8th Annual Report to Taxpayers

(continued from page 3)

## Van Buren Township

### Employee Wages & Actual Cost to Twp. 1/1/15 - 12/31/15

	Wages	Benefits	Total Compensation
<b>Clerk's Dept. continued</b>			
Morse, Vernon	\$59,768.87	\$30,755.45	\$90,524.32
Sumpter, Nicole	\$46,438.78	\$32,161.84	\$78,600.62
Towles, Carol	\$51,963.77	\$13,713.56	\$65,677.33
<b>DDA Director</b>			
Ireland, Susan	\$75,225.19	\$23,830.21	\$99,055.40
Lothinger, Lisa	\$47,873.46	\$9,145.97	\$57,019.43
<b>Election Dept.</b>			
Cline, Kathleen	\$9,495.00	\$726.37	\$10,221.37
<b>IT Dept.</b>			
Rankin, Steve	\$67,049.31	\$22,514.92	\$89,564.23
Dandy, Kenneth	\$56,978.78	\$29,961.39	\$86,940.17
Sabin, Joel	\$44,229.94	\$13,230.22	\$57,460.16
<b>Museum Dir.</b>			
Dallos, Kathryn	\$37,112.00	\$16,010.28	\$53,122.28
<b>Parks</b>			
Drotar, Ryan	\$50,485.03	\$17,318.82	\$67,803.85
Campbell, Freddie	\$21,025.25	\$1,580.56	\$22,605.81
Nicholson, Earvin	\$14,758.75	\$1,129.04	\$15,887.79
Dybicki, Ryan	\$9,951.06	\$761.26	\$10,712.32
Wall, Sydney	\$4,279.71	\$327.40	\$4,607.11
Miller, Theodore	\$3,114.38	\$238.24	\$3,352.62
Seay, Robin	\$2,547.19	\$194.86	\$2,742.05
<b>Recreation Dept.</b>			
Wright, Jennifer	\$58,000.73	\$30,439.26	\$88,439.99
Zaenglein, Jennifer	\$45,675.00	\$27,568.58	\$73,243.58
Harman, Christina	\$50,323.40	\$25,654.57	\$75,977.97
Price, Jennifer	\$45,769.06	\$27,211.80	\$72,980.86
Fleming, Scott	\$11,981.16	\$916.56	\$12,897.72
Villa, Samuel	\$9,248.71	\$707.53	\$9,956.24
Patterson, Tiffani	\$6,483.77	\$496.00	\$6,979.77
Priebe, Kayla	\$5,403.92	\$413.40	\$5,817.32
O'Neill, Ryan	\$5,005.44	\$382.92	\$5,388.36
O'Neill, Ryan	\$5,005.44	\$382.92	\$5,388.36
Ralls, Stephanie	\$3,868.60	\$295.95	\$4,164.55
Zantop, Kendyl	\$3,825.94	\$292.69	\$4,118.63
Zantop, Karli	\$3,636.58	\$278.20	\$3,914.78
Blackstone, Melissa	\$3,069.73	\$234.82	\$3,304.55
Loving, Devine	\$2,707.26	\$207.10	\$2,914.36
Smith, Lindsey	\$2,575.52	\$197.02	\$2,772.54
Testorelli, Scott	\$2,518.32	\$192.64	\$2,710.96
Dowell, Christian	\$2,482.02	\$189.87	\$2,671.89
Hawley, Marrissa	\$2,450.14	\$187.43	\$2,637.57
Jacob Gray	\$2,334.76	\$178.60	\$2,513.36

### Senior Center

Jordan, Lynette	\$46,690.00	\$29,118.20	\$75,808.20
McBride, Patricia	\$22,933.79	\$1,754.43	\$24,688.22
Moore, Melvin	\$10,472.50	\$801.15	\$11,273.65
Johnson, Henry	\$9,430.00	\$721.40	\$10,151.40
Callihan, David	\$9,152.50	\$700.17	\$9,852.67
Porter, Beverly	\$7,558.45	\$578.22	\$8,136.67
Schnettlet, Mikayla	\$6,932.50	\$530.34	\$7,462.84
Callahan, Treana	\$6,676.75	\$510.81	\$7,187.56

### Supervisor's Office

Clair, Lianne	\$41,617.50	\$3,183.74	\$44,801.24
Belanger, Cynthia	\$15,849.66	\$1,212.50	\$17,062.16
Undy, Sarah	\$10,176.00	\$778.48	\$10,954.48
Veerkamp, Patricia	\$6,849.99	\$524.03	\$7,374.02

### Treasurer's Dept.

Bellingham, Sean	\$72,408.86	\$33,238.60	\$105,647.46
Adams, Kathy	\$30,130.94	\$22,311.18	\$52,442.12
Lampinen, Jessica	\$29,216.63	\$19,969.70	\$49,186.33

### Water Dept.

Taylor, James	\$71,050.00	\$15,395.99	\$86,445.99
Pinard, Mario	\$75,775.09	\$41,390.27	\$117,165.36
Caincross, Noah	\$73,208.03	\$31,751.81	\$104,959.84
Strickland, Joseph	\$73,990.34	\$30,007.52	\$103,997.86
Hine, Bradley	\$68,023.38	\$29,549.54	\$97,572.92
Valinski, Jason	\$72,862.15	\$19,076.85	\$91,939.00
Osborne, Jeffery	\$51,137.30	\$33,950.05	\$85,087.35
McIntosh, Laurie	\$45,710.84	\$32,915.77	\$78,626.61
Bovitz, Kristy	\$45,758.48	\$28,319.90	\$74,078.38
Smith, Karen	\$44,691.71	\$26,726.60	\$71,418.31
Ladd, Martin	\$17,204.45	\$6,787.39	\$23,991.84
Cochenour, Jonathon	\$18,033.31	\$4,929.78	\$22,963.09
McLeod, Jeremy	\$17,690.95	\$4,902.69	\$22,593.64
Patton, Brandon	\$4,560.88	\$3,744.46	\$8,305.34

Benefits include employer FICA, Medicare, Health Care, Vision, Life Insurance  
Dental, Retirement, and in some instances Pay in Lieu of Health Care.

### 2015 VBT Employee Tuition Reimbursement

Last	First	Institution	Semester(s)	Tuition Reimbursement Amount	Year Reimbursed
Floro	Ken	UofM-Dearborn	Summer 2014	\$3,546.68	2014
Floro	Ken	UofM-Dearborn	Winter 2013	\$1,899.13	2014
Long	Mike	Schoolcraft College	Winter 2014	\$1,114.01	2014
Schulz	Alex	Madonna University	Fall 2014	\$1,823.62	2014
Besson	Dan	Eastern Michigan	Fall 2015	\$2,188.90	2015
Buckberry	Mark	Madonna University	Winter 2015	\$1,256.50	2015
Floro	Ken	UofM-Dearborn	Fall & Winter 2015	\$3,099.29	2015
Schulz	Alex	Madonna University	Spring/Summer, Fall & Winter 2015	\$5,302.98	2015
Floro	Ken	UofM-Dearborn	Fall 2014	\$2,239.53	2015
Barry	Ryan	Madonna University	Fall 2014	\$1,868.94	2015
Buckberry	Mark	Madonna University	Fall 2014	\$1,855.93	2015
Jordan	Lynette	USC-Davis School of Gerontology	Jan-15	\$500.00	2015
Jordan	Lynette	WCCC	Summer 2015	\$406.00	2015
Jordan	Lynette	WCCC	Spring 2015	\$909.00	2015

**Thank you! All the hard work to compile and present the information from Van Buren Township was done by Diane Madigan.**

# INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

## AUCTION

### PUBLIC AUCTION

NOTICE is hereby given that on Feb. 13, 2016 at 12:00 p.m., Full House Self Storage at 7886 Belleville Rd., Belleville, MI 48111 is holding a public auction. Unit(s) may or may not include the following: household items, recreational items, appliances, furniture, misc. S960 & 962 Terry Booth; P784 Charles Bourque; L523 Gwen Hill; F272, J614, I406 Stephen Kantos; L535 & 536 Daryl Chatman; J616 April Green; O708 Michael S. Doyle; N813 Michelle Meredith; L508 Jodi Mills; I421 Timothy Thompson; P764 Jeff Burgess, T981 Chandler Cuts And Snow; M586 Nicholis Adams, Jr.; S944 Wade Griffin; I403 Kimberly Boldin; N801 William Miller; H362 Lisa Howell.  
Publish: January 28, 2016; February 4, 2016

## FOR SALE

DARK MAROON HEATED recliner couch w/two matching recliner chairs. Quilted frames w/hoop.(734) 718-7815 1/28

## VEHICLE FOR SALE

2010 DODGE AVENGER RT. Loaded, 76,000 miles. Under mfg. warranty. Remote starter & 2 all-weather tires included. \$7,500 OBO, (734) 699-6623 2/4

2004 FORD TAURUS, 110,000 miles, 3.0V6. New tires, brakes & struts. \$2,500 OBO. (734) 461-6696 2/11

## WANTED

WANTED – ANY SIZE MEN’S JEANS for the homeless. Please drop off at Bladez’s 601 E. Huron River Drive. (734) 697-5600 TFN

WANTED – SMALL CONTAINERS of shampoo, toothpaste, etc. to take to homeless in Detroit. Drop off at Bladez’s, 601 E. Huron River Dr. (734) 697-5600 TFN

HOUSEMATE to share clean country home. Large yard, safe location, Belleville area. Close to highways, airports & schools. Female preferred. (734) 325-6107 1/28

## FOR LEASE

## LOST

BLACK CASE w/portable DVD player inside, w/bible DVDs w/it. Lost on Judd Rd. (734) 697-8171 or (313) 978-8924 2/4

## FOUND

TOOLS on January 12 on Haggerty Road near I-94. Call (734) 657-8731 2/4

SMALL FEMALE CAT wandering Edgemont/Robbe area since early fall. (734) 796-0186 2/11

## FOR RENT

WAREHOUSE FOR STORAGE. 2,100 sq. ft. Heat available, located locally. Large entrances. (734) 697-9628 2/11

“It makes us look bad when we vote for something, and then a lobbyist comes out and says, ‘Do you realize what you just voted for?’”  
- Michigan Rep. Dave Pagel  
(R-Berrien Springs)

## MANUFACTURED HOMES FOR SALE

### Shake up the New Year with a home from Franklin!

Security deposit and first month rent waived when you purchase a Franklin Home! Call one of our associates before January 31!\*

Visit our website for a list of homes for purchase or lease starting at \$550  
[www.FranklinHomeSales.com](http://www.FranklinHomeSales.com)



### Franklin

• Manufactured Homes • Communities

#### Belleville Manor

734-699-7700

Belleville Road just 1 mile north of I-94

#### Van Buren Estates

734-697-6159

3 miles south of I-94 at the Rawsonville Exit

#### Mohawk

734-513-4108

Joy Road between Middlebelt and Inkster



\*WAC. Restrictions apply. No cash value. See a Franklin Homes associate for details.

## SERVICES

### A&L SERVICES

**Home Improvement & Handyman Service**  
Painting, Drywall, Carpentry, Electrical, Plumbing, Ceramic Tile, Kitchens & Bath.  
**Serving Belleville Since 1995. Call Aaron Schultz @ 734-740-0628**

### M.D. APPLIANCE SERVICE

Refrigerators • Washers  
Dryers • Ranges  
\$20 House Call

**Phone (734) 782-3354**

### ROB'S GARAGE DOOR REPAIR LLC

Family Owned & Operated. Serving The Belleville Area Since 1978.  
Visit  
[www.robsgaragedoor.com](http://www.robsgaragedoor.com)  
**Call (734) 301-5959**

LOCAL HANDYMAN – SOME Jobs too LARGE – NO JOB too SMALL. Residential snow blowing. LICENSED & REFERENCES. (734) 765-9224 TFN

## SERVICES

CARPET HEADQUARTERS Winter Special. Free padding w/purchase of carpet & installation. Free estimates, fast friendly service, repairs, restretching, since 1979. Phil (734) 612-7570 8/18/16

## HELP WANTED

**Hiring Reliable & Dedicated Bus Drivers for Van Buren Public Schools. Starting Pay: \$11.50/hour. Training Available.**  
**Call 734-699-5100**

AREA TRAINEE for local Real Estate Firm. For appointment call (734) 697-1800 TFN

LOOKING FOR A GREAT stylist and part-time nail tech to expand our team. Just finished our busiest year ever. Established over 14 years. Please call Marlene (734) 732-9295. 2/4

COOKS & SERVERS needed at Huron School District. Please contact Honey (734) 782-1716 2/18

EXPERIENCED CARPENTERS wanted. Full-time, competitive wages based on experience. Based in Monroe County. (734) 587-3195. 2/18

“My wife and I were happy for twenty years. Then we met.”  
– Rodney Dangerfield

**To build a better world, start in your own community!**

## HELP WANTED

## HELP WANTED

### Quest, Inc. is HIRING in BELLEVILLE!

**We're looking for fun, energetic & caring Direct Care Workers to assist persons with special needs we serve in their own homes.**

**Applicants must be:**

- Responsible & committed and work well with others.
- Have a clean criminal record.
- Be available for training. MORC/WCHO/CLS Training is preferred.

**Send Letter/Resume to:**  
[recruiter@questserv.org](mailto:recruiter@questserv.org)  
or Call (734) 699-6543



## SPACE FOR LEASE

### 5 STAR PLAZA

Willis at Rawsonville

Office or Retail. 1500 Sq. Ft.

**Call (734) 740-7195**

## FOR LEASE





# Sumpter Township Public Notice



## TOWNSHIP OF SUMPTER NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing for the Community Development Block Grant Program is scheduled for February 9, 2016 at the Township Hall, 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111 at 6:00 p.m. For the purpose of:

Receiving comments and suggestions regarding the 2016-2017 Community Development Block Grant program. These suggestions must identify and benefit community development or housing needs of low and moderate income residents.

The following is the estimate allocation for 2016-2017 funds:

Administration (21A):	\$ 8,116.05
Senior Services (grass/snow) (05):	\$ 12,300.00
Housing Rehabilitation (14A):	\$ 20,000.00
Demolitions (04):	\$ 40,744.48

Total 2016-2017 CDBG Projects \$81,160.53

Persons with disabilities who require auxiliary aids or services in using public facilities, services or program along with further information is available by contacting the Supervisor of the Township of Sumpter at 734-461-6201 ext 2229.

Published: Belleville Area Independent January 21, 2016 & January 28, 2016



# City of Belleville Public Notice



## CITY OF BELLEVILLE

### COUNTY OF WAYNE, MICHIGAN

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON AMENDMENT TO DEVELOPMENT AND TAX INCREMENT FINANCING PLAN FOR THE BELLEVILLE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

##### TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS IN THE CITY OF BELLEVILLE:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Belleville, Michigan, will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, the 16<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2016 AT 7:30 O'CLOCK, P.M., REVAILING Eastern Time at City Hall, 6 Main Street, Belleville, Michigan to consider the adoption of an ordinance approving an amendment to the Development and Tax Increment Financing Plan for Belleville Downtown Development Authority pursuant to Act 197 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1975, as amended.

The boundaries of the development area to which the Plan Amendment applies are as follows:

**The Development Area generally includes Victoria Commons Subdivision and the downtown commercial district of Belleville along Main Street and along First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth and Liberty Streets, High Street north of Edison Avenue and the property between the Lake and High Street, South Street north of the railroad right-of-way and the abutting commercial and office properties, the senior citizen housing development south of West Columbia Avenue, East Columbia Avenue and the Industrial Park area.**

Copies of the proposed amendment to the Development and Tax Increment Financing Plan, maps, plats, etc. are on file at the office of the City Clerk for inspection.

At the public hearing, all interested persons desiring to address the City Council shall be afforded an opportunity to be heard in regard to the approval of the Development and Tax Increment Financing Plan for the Belleville Downtown Development Authority and all aspects of the Plan will be open for discussion at the public hearing.

FURTHER INFORMATION may be obtained from the City Clerk's office. This notice is given by order of the City Council of the City of Belleville, Michigan.

Lisa Long, City Clerk  
City of Belleville

Publish: January 21, 2016, January 28, 2016



# City of Belleville Public Notice



## City of Belleville Regular City Council Meeting Minutes January 4, 2016

A regular meeting of the Council for the City of Belleville was called to order at 7:30 P.M., at the Municipal Building, 6 Main Street by Mayor Conley.

### 1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

### 2. ROLL CALL

Council Member Fielder	Present
Council Member Smith	Present
Council Member Tindall	Present
Mayor Pro Tem Loria	Present
Mayor Conley	Present

### 3. PRESENTATIONS AND CITIZEN COMMENT

None.

### 4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion by Smith, Second by Fielder to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Loria, Second by Tindall to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of December 21, 2015 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### 6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

### 7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None.

### 8. GENERAL BUSINESS

#### A. SMART – 2017 Operating Assistance Grant

Motion by Fielder, Second by Loria to approve **Resolution No. 16-001**, to approve SMART Specialized Services Operating Assistance funds to help to subsidize the operation of a service that provides transportation of the elderly and disabled persons in Belleville and to approve the filing of the FY2017 Specialized Services Operating Assistance grant in the amount of \$3,651.00.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### 9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

Motion by Tindall, Second by Fielder to approve **Resolution No. 16-002**, to approve accounts payable and payables over \$500.00 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### 10. ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING

None.

### 11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Fielder, Second by Loria to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Long

City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved: January 19, 2016

Published: January 28, 2016

“Social media is making us dumber and more divided.”

– Al Pscholka

*House Appropriations Committee Chair Al PSCHOLKA (R-Stevensville) after he felt comments he made about there not being a “blank check” for the city of Flint were taken out of context.*

### Notice to Advertisers:

The *Belleville-Area Independent* will not be liable for failure to publish an ad as requested or for more than one incorrect insertion of an advertisement. In the event of any error or omission in printing or publication of an advertisement, you must notify us within five days of publication or on the date of insertion, if an ad is scheduled as part of a package, so there is time to correct subsequent publications. The *Independent's* liability shall be limited to an adjustment for the cost of the space occupied by the error with a maximum liability being cancellation of the cost of the first incorrect advertisement or republication of the corrected advertisement. Under no circumstances shall the *Independent* be liable for consequential damages of any kind.

### PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



# Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

## Notice of Advertisement

**Seeking Demolition Bids.** The Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, MI will receive bids for the demolition, removal, and disposal of the house and debris at **43275 E. Huron River Drive**, known as the Riggs House, which is located on the south side of E. Huron River Drive approximately 450 feet east of Martinsville Road in Van Buren Township. The coordinates of the home are 42°12'37.9"N 83°27'50.7"W. Bid forms and demolition work specifications are available at the Office of the Township Clerk, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111, from 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday – Friday or on the Township website at **[www.vanburen-mi.org](http://www.vanburen-mi.org)**. Bids shall be submitted to the Clerk's Office by **11:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 11, 2016** and will be publicly opened immediately following the closing of the bid. Interested contractors may contact Ron Akers, Director of Planning & Economic Development at (734) 699-8913 to schedule a Pre-Bid Meeting. The Township reserves the right to reject any and all bids and reserves the right not to award a contract. Van Buren Township is an equal opportunity employer.

Posted and Published: January 28, 2016

## Minding Your Business with Bob Mytych



Leo's Coney Island and WXYZ Channel 7 have teamed up across Southeast Michigan for **Fix My School, Detroit School Supplies Drive** going on through the next few weeks. Items needed are notebooks, pens, pencils, crayons, markers, highlighters, notecards, and rulers to name some. Items can be dropped off at any Leo's Coney Island during regular business hours. Call (734) 697-1000.

\*\*\*

"Detroit in World War II" is the program at this year's **Yankee Air Museum Historic Preservation Night** next Wednesday, Feb. 3, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the General Purpose Room at the YAF Museum at Willow Run Airport. Admission is free and open to the public. The program by Dr. Greg Sumner from the University of Detroit Mercy, who will be releasing a book of the same name, will feature stories of Detroit and the Motor City and the everyday life and times of its residents, workers, and business leaders such as Henry Ford, Eleanor Roosevelt, Charles Lindbergh, Joe Louis, Hank Greenberg, and Rosie the Riveter. For info, call (734) 483-4030 and visit [www.yankeearmuseum.org](http://www.yankeearmuseum.org).

\*\*\*

**Holiday Inn Express & Suites** on the North I-94 Service Drive in Belleville is looking for vendors, crafters, Mom to Mom sellers and more for its **Valentine's Indoor Sale** coming up on Saturday, Feb. 13, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the hotel. For table info, call Jessica Thomas at (734) 857-6200 or email her at [jthomas@amhosiptality.com](mailto:jthomas@amhosiptality.com).

\*\*\*

**The Bake Shoppe** on Savage at Bemis Road is getting ready for **Paczkis Day** on Feb. 9 as the bakery will once again be offering its European style in flavors such as apple, apricot, custard, lemon, strawberry and many others. The business will only be selling them on Feb. 8, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Feb. 9, beginning at 5 a.m. until 6 p.m. Prices are \$1.75 each, \$10.50 for a half dozen and \$20 for a baker's dozen. Orders can be placed by calling (734) 699-2236.

## Birthdays

Jan. 13 – Dylan Ackron  
Jan. 29 – Jeffrey Hagerman  
Feb. 1 – Joy Cichewicz, Kathie Steigerwald  
Feb. 2 – Denise Bukis  
Feb. 4 – Keith Johnston  
Feb. 7 – Kevin Schewe, Pam Johnson  
Feb. 12 – Tina Marie McGlynn, Nora Hemphill

Do you have a birthday in February? Does any one you know have a birthday soon? Call the *Independent* at 699-9020 and let us know. We'll list it in this column ASAP following your call. There is no charge.

## Mail Center One reopens after cleanup of spilled mercury

Mail Center One at 847 Sumpter Road in Belleville has reopened after clean up of a mercury spill that occurred Jan. 18.

Arch Environmental Group, a Hazmat company hired by Mail Center One owner John Ware, performed the clean up and has deemed the facility safe for customers.

"Our customer's safety is of utmost importance to us," Ware said in a news release. "Their welfare is not something we take lightly."

The State of Michigan has reviewed the laboratory results provided by Arch that show the center to be mercury free, said Christina Bush in a letter to Ware and his wife Aminata, co-owner of the business.

Bush is toxicologist of the Toxicology and Response Section Division of Environmental Health for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

"We look forward to seeing our dedicated customers," said Ware. "We are very much a part of this community and our promise to continue serving here is unwavering."

For more information, call Ware at (734) 325-7176.

## VBT Public Safety Dept. collecting water for Flint

Van Buren Township Fire Chief Dan Besson announced Monday that the fire halls and police station are drop-off points for donations of water for residents of Flint.

Chief Besson said Fire Station #2 on Belleville Road is the main drop-off point, but residents may leave water donations at Fire Station #1, at the corner of Hull and Sumpter roads, as well as the police department on Tyler at Quirk roads.

He said the fire department will make sure the water is transported to those in need of clean water in Flint.

"Many a small thing has been made large by the right kind of advertising."

*Mark Twain*

## DOUGLAS CARPETS MILL OUTLET

Professional Installation Of Quality Carpeting,  
Laminate Wood Flooring, And No-Wax Vinyl.  
We Sell Shaw, Mohawk, and Beaulieu Carpet.

**New For 2016 – Armstrong  
Luxury Vinyl – Now In Stock!**

**Alloc Laminate Flooring  
Is Back In Stock!**

HOURS: MON-FRI 9:00-6:00 • SATURDAY 9:00-4:00

**240 MAIN STREET  
BELLEVILLE, MI 48111  
(734) 697-9137**

"Celebrating Over 37 Years"

*To build a better world, start in your own community!*



## Dudek Heating & Cooling

Service and Installation

Licensed and Insured • Free Estimates • Furnaces • Boilers  
Air Conditioning • Duct Work • Humidifiers • Water Heaters  
Generators • Electrical • Plumbing

Keith Dudek : Owner  
11681 Rawsonville  
Belleville, MI 48111

Office: (734) 461-6165  
Cell: (734) 730-9733



## ELAINE GIBLIN GUTIERREZ

ASSOCIATE BROKER - 25 yrs. Experience

Email: [elaineg@Remerica.com](mailto:elaineg@Remerica.com)

**734-697-2450**



## BEST OF BELLEVILLE



### 2 Dwellings for the Price of One!

Historic home in heart of Belleville plus separately-metered, converted garage for possible rental, studio, workshop or in-law quarters.

**Only \$95,000**

For exclusive showing call  
Elaine at **734-740-3011**.

*Remerica Main St. Realty named Office of the Month of Jan. by Van Buren Twp. DDA.  
Stop in for your real estate needs! Look for farmhouse with "candles in the windows."*

## Low Cost Mobile Vet and Wellness Clinic With Dr. John Hermann @ Fluff-N-Puff Pet Grooming!

36628 Goddard Rd. Romulus, MI 48174 (734) 229-0005

**Every Monday 1pm-4pm Every Friday 5pm-8pm**

- 3 year rabies \$16
- Heartworm test \$19
- Eye/Skin/Ear exams \$19
- Discounted vaccine packages for dogs and cats.
- Flea and Heartworm prevention available at or below online pharmacy pricing!

\* Facebook: Mobile Vet Clinic with Dr. John Hermann D.V.M.

\* [www.mobilevetclinic.biz](http://www.mobilevetclinic.biz)

\*Ph (313) 686-5701



## JAYCO

### COMFORT SYSTEMS

**YOUR HEATING & COOLING FAMILY**

**Have You Been Turned Down for Credit? WE CAN HELP!**

Credit Problems? Bankruptcy? **NO PROBLEM**

We can design a system and budget plan just for you.

Don't Buy A Furnace Until You Call

**DISCOUNTS FOR MILITARY, TEACHERS, CITY, STATE & COUNTY EMPLOYEES!**

A+ Rating with BBB

**FREE** Humidifier & Digital Thermostat with Installation of Furnace & Central Air!

**A \$500 VALUE!**

**Furnace Installed** as low as **\$1075** HIGH EFFICIENCY

**Furnace Installed** as low as **\$1650** SUPER HIGH EFFICIENCY

10 year parts and labor

**For Free Estimates, Call (313) 381-2800**

20740 Ecorse Road, Taylor, MI 48180

**FAMILY OWNED FOR OVER 38 YEARS!**

180 Days Same As Cash

6 Mo. 0% Interest

No Payments





### Committees & Commissions Openings

Van Buren Township is looking for community-minded residents to serve on Committees/Commissions, Advisory Boards, and Authorities.

A minimal commitment of time, as most groups meet monthly or quarterly.  
(Some commissions receive a stipend for participation)

Be a part of the solution to the issues facing your Township! There are currently openings on the Recreation Committee, the Water & Sewer Commission, the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA), the Construction Code Appeals Board, the Planning Commission and the Downtown Development Authority (DDA).

Submit your application today! (Available online or in the Supervisor's office).

## COMMISSIONS

### Be sure to notice the new date

You're invited —

## Winter Snow Fling

Sunday, January 31, 2016, 1:00 pm

Presented by

Huron Valley Conservation Association

**Location:** HVCA Club Property in Willis  
(about 2 blocks north of Willis Road on Meridian Road)

**Who is invited?** HVCA members, their family members and friends, children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews — everyone who likes to have fun outside.

**Refreshments:** Hot dogs, hot chocolate, chili, chips, etc.

**Games / Activities planned:**  
– King of the hill, snow races, and more  
– If we don't have snow, we'll have rides on a tractor-pulled wagon and much more!

**What to bring:** Sled(s), toboggan(s), snow saucer(s), whatever you have for playing in the snow.  
We plan to have a tractor for pulling.

BE SURE TO DRESS WARMLY — OUTDOOR CLOTHING IS A MUST !!

The clubhouse will be open —  
warming space and bathroom available.

Parking space will be plowed out.

**R. S. V. P.** 734-697-9892 — Gloria Dougherty  
or HVCA2010@aol.com

\*\*\* (This will really help us to be sure that we are properly prepared.) \*\*\*  
Let us know if you have questions or if you would like to help.

See you there!! Brrrr... We will have fun!

## Blacksmith hopes to win \$10,000 prize to take recovered wife to Hawaii

Susan Duda-Osborne, a Belleville High School teacher who is on a leave of absence as she is treated for breast cancer, announces her husband Chad Osborne has been invited to compete on a television reality show that showcases forging skills.

He is a Mackinac Island blacksmith and hopes to win the \$10,000 top prize to take his recovered wife to Hawaii on vacation.

Chad lives on Mackinac Island seasonally from May until the end of October and works at Jack's Livery Stable and Cindy's Riding Stable. Susan said they are provided with a home on the island and she joins him after school is out in the summer.

During the off-season winter months he makes hand-forged knives for customers looking for a one-of-a-kind blade, sword or weapon. Some of his hand-forged knives can be seen at his website: [osborneforge.dudaone.com](http://osborneforge.dudaone.com).

He will be featured on History Channel's Forged in Fire as one of four competitors attempting to forge the best knife within a specific amount of time.

One competitor is eliminated after the blade is forged. Then, a second competitor is eliminated after the handle is made and the finished knife is put through a performance test.

The final two contestants are sent back to their home forges to make a historical weapon within a 45-hour time frame. The weapon and competitor then return to Brooklyn, NY, for judging and three performance tests.

The competitor with the best weapon is crowned "Forged in Fire Champion".

## Una's Golden Thread Shoppe

- SEWING
- ALTERING
- MENDING

(734) 753-5873



These are the four forging competitors on the television show. From left are Chad Osborne, Erin Aylor, Burt Foster, and Kevin Klein.



The Osbornes -- Chad, Susan and Braden (their 13-year-old son) -- pose for a picture at chemotherapy.



Susan Duda-Osborne is a teacher at Belleville High School.

The season premiere of Forged in Fire is Tuesday, Feb. 9, at 10 p.m. Chad will be competing on episode four which should air on Tuesday, March 1, at 10 p.m.

The winner is awarded \$10,000. If Chad wins, he said he would like to use the money to take Susan on a Hawaiian trip after her cancer treatment is finished. She has had surgery and is currently undergoing chemotherapy, radiation, and endocrine therapy.

Information provided by Susan Duda-Osborne.

### BUDWEISER BOTTLES - \$2, WINE AVAILABLE!

## CHINA KING

45915 S. I-94 Service Dr., Belleville

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# VBT Police seek information on armed robbery at BP station

The Van Buren Township Police Department is seeking the public’s help in the investigation of an armed robbery that took place at about 12:18 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 24, at the BP gas station at Haggerty and Ecorse roads.

VBT Public Safety Director Gregory Laurain sent a press release that said the station clerk told police the suspect entered the station lobby and appeared to be shopping.

When the suspect brought an item up to the counter, he produced a semi-automatic handgun from his waistband and demanded the clerk give him money from the register.

The suspect exited the lobby with about \$750 in cash and got in a vehicle waiting in the parking lot.

The suspect is described as a black male, 22-28 years of age, 6’ tall and 190 pounds, with facial stubble. He wore a black down jacket with hood, black jeans and black tennis shoes with white-rimmed soles.

Director Laurain said the clerk was unharmed and the vehicle, described as possibly a black Honda Civic, was last seen southbound on Haggerty Road.

Anyone with information regarding this crime is urged to contact VBT Police Investigative Bureau at (734) 699-8915.

## Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Friday, Jan. 29** – Potato Pancake Supper 4:30-7 p.m. at St. John’s Lutheran church, 28320 Waltz Rd., Waltz. \$10 donation for adults, \$4 donation for children 6-12, children 5 and under are free. No waiting for carry-outs. Sponsored by St. John’s Ladies Aid/LWML.

• **Friday, Jan. 29** – You are invited to a special reception at the Belleville Area District Library, 5:30-7:30 p.m., to be informed on plans for a new library building in downtown Belleville. Hors d’oeuvres, dessert bar.

• **Saturday, Jan. 30** – A Bean Bag Tournament to raise money to send kids to camp will be held beginning at 10:30 a.m. and ending at 3 p.m. at Wayne County Community College, 9555 Haggerty Rd. in Van Buren Township. This is sponsored by Belleville–Ypsilanti Young Life which reaches out to Middle and High School students from this area.

• **Saturday, Jan. 30** – St. Anthony’s annual holiday dance, this year it’s called “Hawaiian Holiday,” starts at 6:30 p.m. with cocktails. It runs until midnight at the Fr. Folta Building behind the church at 409 W. Columbia Ave., Belleville. Tickets are \$25 per person. Evening includes dinner and dancing. Sponsored by the Men’s Club.

## Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

*Out of the 548 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police this week, the following are selected for this column.*

**Sunday, Jan. 17:**  
0000 – assist fire dept., Valero  
0014 – animal complaint, Belmont Dr.  
0450 – agency assist, Liberty Ln.  
0846 – missing person, Denton Rd.  
1214 – private property accident, Belleville Rd.  
1217 – property damage accident, NB 275/Ecorse  
1249 – agency assist, Denton Rd.  
1423 – assault & battery, Buchanan St.  
1501 – agency assist, Park Estates  
1532 – water leak found, Quirk Rd.  
1643 – malicious destruction of property, Belleville Rd.  
1959 – operating while intoxicated, Michigan Ave. / Rawsonville Rd.  
2050 – harassment call, Fisher Rd.  
2147 – narcotics crime, Westlake  
2359 – hospice, Maple Dr.

**Monday, Jan. 18:**  
0410 – assault & battery, Bellridge Apts.  
1026 – hospice, N. Timberview Dr.  
1118 – found property, Van Buren Urgent Care  
1209 – private property accident, N. I-94 Service Dr.  
1349 – larceny from auto, Ironwood Dr.  
1424 – assault & battery, Village Green Ln.  
1439 – malicious destruction of property, Belleville Rd.

1950 – personal injury accident, WB I-94 / Belleville Rd.  
**Tuesday, Jan. 19:**  
0541 – vehicle repossession, N. Bellridge Dr.  
1055 – fraud, Nautica Dr.  
1220 – fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1309 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1420 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1502 – fraud, Borgman Ave.  
1709 – fraud, S. Sadie Ln.  
2036 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Robson Rd.  
2120 – larceny from auto, Daniel Dr.

**Wednesday, Jan. 20:**  
0052 – assault & battery, Lancaster Dr.  
0256 – private property incident, Van Born  
0647 – property damage accident, Savage  
0811 – private property accident, N. Bellridge  
0845 – assault & battery, Outer Dr.  
1103 – breaking & entering, Victoria St.  
1127 – larceny, Meadows Ln.  
1215 – panic alarm, E. Sadie Ln.  
1423 – agency assist, Denton Rd.  
1502 – assault & battery, Kirkridge Park Dr.  
1758 – dumping complaint, Denton Rd./Ecorse Rd.  
1955 – assault & battery, N. Ponderosa Trl.  
2316 – assault & battery, N. I-94 Service Dr.

**Thursday, Jan. 21:**  
0300 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.  
0609 – assault & battery, Parkwood Dr.  
1142 – malicious destruction of property, Clayton Rd.  
1232 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Brookview Dr.  
1325 – breaking & entering, Haggerty Rd.  
1401 – E-911 hang up/investigation, Haggerty Rd.  
1448 – fraud, W. Huron River Dr.  
1510 – private property incident, Denton Rd.  
1704 – fraud, Belleville  
1732 – suspicious person, Parkwood Dr.  
2156 – noise complaint, Pine Dr.

**Friday, Jan. 22:**  
0103 – assault & battery, Loza Ln.  
0121 – suspicious person, Sandlewood Dr.  
1028 – abandoned auto, Filmore St.  
1052 – suspicious person, Haggerty Rd./Tyler Rd.  
1122 – code enforcement, S. Ponderosa Trl.  
1421 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd./N. I-94 Service Dr.  
1539 – property damage accident, Belleville/Tyler  
1554 – property damage accident, Belleville/I-94 N. Service Dr.  
1610 – private property accident, Belleville Rd.  
1620 – trespassing, Rose Blvd.  
1633 – private property accident, Belleville Rd.  
1645 – disorderly conduct, Holly Ln.

1828 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.  
2026 – assist fire dept., Marlowe Ave.  
2028 – property damage accident, E. I-94/Haggerty  
2056 – assault & battery, Huron River/Metro Parkway  
2119 – assist citizen, Haggerty Rd.  
2226 – narcotics crime, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
2340 – suspicious person, Sandlewood Dr.  
**Saturday, Jan. 23:**  
0012 – disorderly conduct., N. Ponderosa Trl.  
0040 – animal complaint, Hull Rd.  
0218 – suspicious person, Parkwood Dr.  
0403 – operating while intoxicated, WB I-94 / Belleville Rd.  
0650 – disorderly conduct, S. Bellridge Dr.  
0823 – vehicle repossession, Haggerty Rd.  
0946 – noise complaint, N. Ponderosa Trl.  
1043 – noise complaint, S. Ponderosa Trl.  
1152 – agency assist, Jackson St./Jackson Ct.  
1340 – vehicle repossession, S. Woodbury, cancelled  
1736 – property damage accident, S. Timberview  
1742 – suspicious situation, Haggerty Rd. / Independence Ln.  
1810 – suicide or attempt, Maple Dr.  
2132 – noise complaint, N. Woodbury Dr.  
2135 – noise complaint, W. Archwood Dr.  
2235 – private property accident, Parkwood Dr.  
2323 – harassment call, Cobblestone Creek Dr.

Also on this week’s log are 212 traffic stops, 55 of which were on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

## Belleville Police Dispatch Log

**Sunday, Jan. 17:**  
1304 – malicious destruction of property, W. Columbia Ave.  
1847 – civil matter, Henry St.  
2000 – suspicious situation, Biggs Ave.  
2054 – suspicious person, E. Thornhill Ct.  
2054 – domestic assault, Church St.  
**Monday, Jan. 18:**  
0129 – hospice, Menlo Park  
0145 – hospice, Menlo Park  
0221 – welfare check, Henry St.  
0800 – E-911 cellular, Third St.  
1244 – assist fire dept., Madelon St.  
1414 – abandoned auto, South St.  
1612 – assist fire dept., Henry St.  
1612 – missing person, Menlo Park Dr., cancelled  
1759 – intimidation threat, Loza Ln.  
2225 – agency assist, Wendy’s/Belleville Rd.  
2323 – welfare check, Main St.

**Tuesday, Jan. 19:**  
0724 – suspicious situation, Main St.  
0951 – larceny, W. Columbia Ave.  
1100 – background investigation, Carmell St., cancelled  
1417 – child abuse, Oakwood Medical Clinic  
1524 – prisoner transport, 34<sup>th</sup> District Court  
1746 – mental, Carmell  
1748 – agency assist, Carmell, cancelled  
2109 – suspicious situation, Sumpter Rd.  
2302 – noise complaint, Belle Villa Blvd.

**Wednesday, Jan. 20:**  
0723 – miscellaneous complaint, Sumpter Rd.  
0808 – ordinance violation, N. Liberty St.  
0907 – private property accident, W. Columbia Ave.  
1016 – follow up, Jackson  
1043 – civil matter, Menlo Park Dr.  
1132 – 911 cellular, Sumpter Rd.  
1254 – larceny, W. Columbia Ave.  
1324 – larceny, Owen Intermediate School  
1456 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.  
1509 – private property accident, Third St.  
1611 – civil matter, Menlo Park Dr.  
1711 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.  
1724 – civil matter, Menlo Park Dr.  
1910 – assist fire dept., Menlo Park Dr.  
**Thursday, Jan. 21:**  
0259 – noise complaint, Belle Villa Blvd.  
1150 – family trouble, Carmell St.  
1356 – welfare check, Wexford Ave.  
1408 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.  
1629 – fraud, Loza Ln.  
**Friday, Jan. 22:**  
0104 – domestic assault, Loza Ln.

0410 – parking complaint, Oxford Ct.  
0910 – disorderly conduct, Third St.  
1032 – background investigation, Main St.  
1730 – suspicious person, Harbour Pointe Dr.  
2254 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.  
**Saturday, Jan. 23:**  
0042 – suicide or attempt, Robbe St.  
0139 – intrusion alarm, Sumpter Rd.  
1107 – animal complaint, N. Aberdeen Ct.  
1335 – traffic complaint, Victoria Ct.  
1611 – juvenile complaint, Estrada  
Also on this week’s log are 93 traffic stops.

## Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

**Sunday, Jan. 17:**  
0508 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Bohn Rd.  
1222 – suspicious incident, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.  
1307 – well-being check, Colorado  
1706 – subpoena service, 42000 bl. Willis Rd.  
1807 – subpoena service, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1854 – death investigation, 39000 bl. Willis Rd.  
2032 – LCC inspection, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
2047 – LCC inspection, 40000 bl. Bemis Rd.  
2139 – alarm, 24000 bl. Martinsville Rd.  
**Monday, Jan. 18:**  
1324 – suspicious person, Timberlane  
1326 – assist other agency, Oakville Waltz/Elwell  
1433 – civil dispute, 41000 bl. Judd Rd.  
1501 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Bemis Rd.  
1543 – suspicious incident, 49000 bl. Wear Rd.  
1707 – assist other agency, 22000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1814 – alarm, 28000 bl. Karr Rd.  
1936 – civil dispute, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.

**Tuesday, Jan. 19:**  
0726 – property damage accident, Rawsonville / Wear  
0953 – warrant arrest pick up, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.  
1044 – trespassing complaint, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.  
1252 – animal complaint, 26000 bl. Karr Rd.  
1354 – fire dept. assist, 51000 bl. Judd Rd.  
1413 – animal complaint, Sumpter/Willis  
1439 – assist other agency, 45000 bl. Victoria Ave.  
1457 – animal complaint, 26000 bl. Karr Rd.  
1526 – suspicious incident, Arizona  
2243 – noise complaint, 23000 bl. Carleton West Rd.

**Wednesday, Jan. 20:**  
0030 – warrant arrest pick up, out of township  
0628 – citizen assist, Savage/Bemis  
0908 – fire dept. assist, 8400 bl. Oakville Waltz Rd.  
1018 – alarm, 49000 bl. Collyer Ct.  
1030 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1554 – identity theft report, 44000 bl. Harris Rd.  
1724 – fire dept. assist, 26000 bl. Elwell Rd.  
1858 – harassment complaint, 9300 bl. Rawsonville Rd.

1921 – missing person, 19000 bl. Haggerty Rd.  
**Thursday, Jan. 21:**  
0049 – fire dept. assist, 41000 bl. Willis Rd.  
1152 – suspicious incident, Knollwood  
1710 – fire dept. assist, 24000 bl. Bohn Rd.  
1732 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
2118 – operation while intoxicated arrest, Sumpter/ Bemis

**Friday, Jan. 22:**  
0420 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
0731 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Willow  
0945 – fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Bemis Rd.  
1009 – assist other agency, 43000 bl. Willow Rd.  
1033 – citizen assist, 8200 bl. Rawsonville Rd.  
1120 – death investigation, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.  
1518 – assault, 44000 bl. Paris Dr.  
1811 – civil dispute, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1910 – property damage accident, 5300 bl. Oakville Waltz Rd.

**Saturday, Jan. 23:**  
0452 – fire dept. assist, 13000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.  
0815 – 911 hang up, 28000 bl. Karr Rd.  
2007 – runaway juvenile, 48000 bl. Bemis Rd.  
2224 – recovered missing person, 48000 bl. Bemis Rd.  
Also on this week’s log are 10 follow-up investigations, 38 miscellaneous details, 217 patrol checks, and 58 traffic stops.



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The Bowen family of Sumpter Township celebrated the retirements of Larry Bowen from General Motors after 35 years and Ellen Bowen from the Third Judicial Circuit Court, Wayne County, after 27 years. A party for 160 family and friends was held in Detroit on Nov. 7 with people coming from throughout the country to celebrate the couple, who are entering a new plateau in their lives.

### Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, Feb. 1 – Van Buren Township work/study session, 4 p.m. Also, Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

- Tuesday, Feb. 2 – Van Buren Township regular board meeting, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, Feb. 4 – Keystone Academy school board, 6 p.m.
- Tuesday, Feb. 9 – Sumpter Township work/study at 6 p.m. and regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township Board of Zoning Appeals, 7 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library Board, 7:30 p.m.

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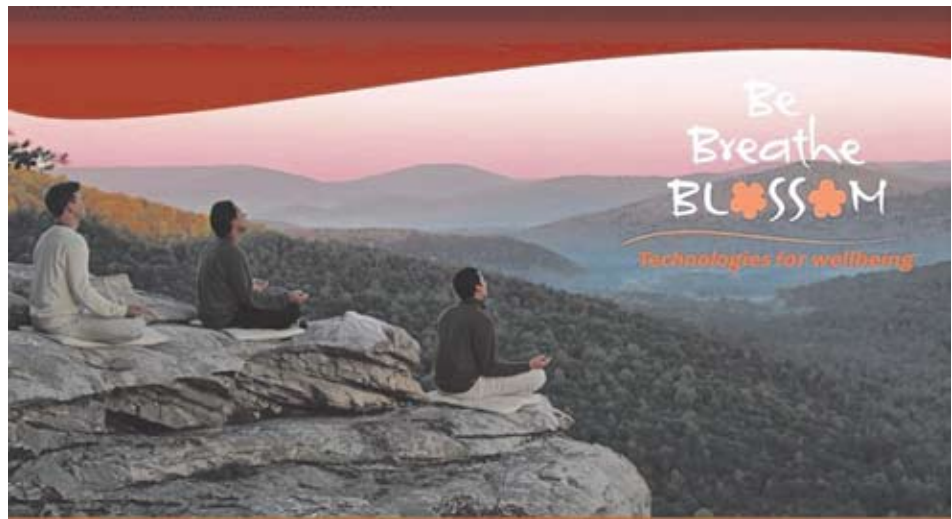
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**Thursday, January 28, 2016**  
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 <p><b>40500 HARRIS, SUMPTER TWP</b> FREE OF CITY PRESSURE Full Brick Country Home with 3 Large Bedrooms, Hardwood Floors, Large Bath, 90+ High Efficiency Furnace, Bigger Pole Barn Plus 2 1/2 Car Garage, Paved Street, 2+ Acres and this Preferred Location is just minutes from Everwhere. Immediate Occupancy. Just Listed at \$175,000</p>	 <p><b>12950 &amp; 12900 HAGGERTY, VAN BUREN</b> BEST LOCATIONS! 12950 Haggerty offers 9340 SQ FT with 20 foot Ceilings, Large Office Rooms, and Huge Warehouse AND 12900 Haggerty offers 8,000 Sq Ft, Plush Offices, Paved Street and Super Close to I-94 AND I-275. THESE HAVE IT ALL. \$750,000 each and Possible Lease at \$5.00 Sq Foot NNN</p>	<p><b>PRICE IMPROVED!</b></p>  <p><b>500 HURON RIVER DR, BELLEVILLE</b> A NEW BREW PUB? HIGHEST QUALITY! Brick Commercial building in the City of Belleville. Former florist, coffee house, and bakery with potential for immediate franchise opportunity The quality, potential and design of this newer (2002) constructed building are beyond description. \$550,000 (or \$18.00 square ft - NNN)</p>	 <p><b>510 SAVAGE, BELLEVILLE</b> AUTOMOTIVE TESTING and Engineering Facility. 22,000 Square Feet of Offices, Testing Labs, High Overhead Doors, Possible Prototype Assembly. One of the Few Compressed Gas Filling Station, Light Industrial Zoning. Testing Equipment offered at Additional Price. Possible Land Contract Terms. \$700,000.</p>	 <p><b>17194 HIGDON, BROWNSTOWN</b> IMPRESSIVE 2 bedroom 2 bathroom condo in the quaint Woodbridge Subdivision. Freshly painted and Impressive Hardwood Floors, Open Floor Plan, 2 Baths and 1 Car Attached Garage. Conveniently located close to major highways and shopping areas yet far enough away to live in peace and quiet. Next to The Sultana Golf Course. \$85,000</p>
<p><b>BELLEVILLE</b> 337 MAIN .32 ACRES 83X165 \$79,500 <b>SUMPTER TOWNSHIP</b> 26455 KARR 5 ACRES 162X1308 \$35,000 26405 KARR 5 ACRES 162X1308 \$35,000</p>	<p>25817 SUMPTER RD .97 ACRES \$20,000 26960 SHERWOOD 2.5 ACRES \$30,000 <b>SUMPTER TOWNSHIP</b> 45885 BEMIS PAVED RD BUILDABLE LOT \$27,500 24409 SHERWOOD 1.15 ACRES \$30,000</p>	<p>49317 ARKONA 40.28 ACRES \$180,000 VACANT SUMPTER 7.46 ACRES \$30,000 VINEY AND SIBLEY 21+ ACRES \$450,000 WILLOW ROAD 1.36 ACRES \$25,000 BOHN NEAR DUNN 5 ACRES \$29,000</p>	<p>20731 GRIFFIN COURT 1.1 AC \$25,900 20743 GRIFFIN COURT 1.4 AC \$29,500 <b>VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP</b> 739 SAVAGE PAVED ST 1.02 ACRES \$35,000 VACANT MARTZ 17+ ACRES \$175,000</p>	<p>VACANT BOG ROAD .55 ACRES \$29,750 VAN 6422 GILMORE 82X165 LOT WITH WATER AND SEWER PRICED RIGHT \$15,900 49809 BOG 2.74 ACRES \$49,500 5900 DELLOR 1.81 ACRES \$35,000</p>



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